

25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 25 SEP 50

SUBJECT: Speech by Ivan Barev to
Bulgarian Refugees in Trieste

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

- 25X1X
1. On 26 August 1950 Ivan Barev, the Bulgarian National Committee representative to Italy, arrived in Trieste. He proceeded to the Jesuiti refugee camp where most prominent supporters of Dr. Georgi M. Dimitrov are housed and called a meeting of all Bulgarians present. Shortly after the meeting had begun, the American major commanding the camp stopped it for lack of proper authorization.
 2. Barev apologized to the American commander, and later in the day held a smaller meeting of the more active members of the Dimitrov group. He stated that in the latter part of September 1950 Georgi Dimitrov would visit Trieste and explain the latest developments in the National Committee. The men present were instructed to prepare a roster of all Bulgarians in Trieste eligible for military service, giving complete details of past military experience, and other pertinent data.
 3. On the following day, Barev addressed Bulgarian refugees of the San Sabba camp who are followers of Father Gagov. Barev stated that [Father] Gagov was a priest and as such could not in any sense be considered a leader of a Bulgarian political party. As for the royalists, he declared that if the Bulgarians indicated in free elections that they desired a monarchy, he would be among the first to welcome the king. Barev added that at present there is no indication the people want a monarchy. Furthermore, the king has given little indication that he really would like to return to the throne.
 4. This speech by Barev made a deep impression on the 40 Bulgarians assembled and almost half of them voiced their agreement with Barev. Many others stated that they would await the visit of Dimitrov before deciding which group to support. Barev left Trieste for Rome on the evening of 27 August 1950.*

25X1A [REDACTED] An unevaluated report states that while in Trieste Barev dismissed Asen Slavov as local leader of the Dimitrov group and assigned Angel Mitev to the position. In Bulgaria Mitev was one of the organizers of the Zemljorodnicki Savez (Peasant Union). There has been no confirmation of this report to date.

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